

Remarks

Reconsideration of this Application is respectfully requested.

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 1-3, 5 and 6 are pending in the application, with claim 1 being the independent claim. Claim 4 is sought to be cancelled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter therein. These changes are believed to introduce no new matter, and their entry is respectfully requested.

Based on the above amendment and the following remarks, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn.

Claim Objections

The Examiner objected to claim 5 because the word "the" appears twice consecutively before the word "smallest" in line 3 of that claim. By the foregoing amendment to claim 3, this error has been corrected. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider this objection to claim 3 and that it be withdrawn.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112

The Examiner has rejected claim 4 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. By the foregoing amendment, claim 4 has been cancelled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject

matter recited therein, thereby rendering this rejection moot. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider the rejection of claim 4 and that it be withdrawn.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Examiner has rejected claims 1 and 6 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,546,017 to Khaunte ("Khaunte") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,580,721 to Beshai ("Beshai"). Applicants have carefully considered the Examiner's comments but for the reasons set forth below respectfully traverse.

Claim 1 is directed to a method for timing the transmission of unsolicited grants (USGs) of bandwidth to transmit voice packets on a shared transmission medium. The method of claim 1 includes the steps of:

- initializing a control terminal to receive packets of voice calls having parameters including a bit rate, a packetization interval, and a call identification;

- creating a plurality of queues to define a corresponding plurality of phases at a sub-multiple of the packetization interval;

- admitting voice calls to the control terminal;

- distributing the voice calls among the queues in a predetermined order as the voice calls are admitted;

- removing the voice calls from the queues as the voice calls are terminated; and

- periodically issuing at the phases defined by the queues USGs that include a call identification and a grant of bandwidth sufficient to transmit the packets.

The combination of Khaunte and Beshai does not teach or suggest each of the features of claim 1. For example, neither Khaunte nor Beshai teach the feature of "creating a plurality of queues to define a corresponding plurality of phases at a sub-multiple of the packetization interval" as recited in claim 1. As discussed in the specification of the present application, this feature enables the reduction of jitter associated with voice calls:

This voice jitter effect can be reduced by ***subdividing the upstream frames into a number of smaller phases and employing a separate queue for each phase***. The jitter value can be bounded by selection of the phase size.

See Specification at p. 6, ll. 28-31 (emphasis added).

The Examiner asserts that the feature of "creating a plurality of queues to define a corresponding plurality of phases at a sub-multiple of the packetization interval" is taught at column 1, line 63 to column 2, line 3 of Khaunte. However, the cited text in Khaunte merely refers to a well-known prioritization scheme in which bandwidth requests or packets are stored in one of multiple queues based on a priority level associated with each request/packet. Contrary to the Examiner's assertion, Khaunte's teaching of multiple queues for storing packets having different priority levels is not the same thing as ***creating a plurality of queues to define a corresponding plurality of phases at a sub-multiple of the packetization interval*** as recited in claim 1.

Beshai does not provide any of the missing teachings or suggestions identified above with regard to Khaunte. Thus, the combination of Khaunte and Beshai fail to support a prima facie obviousness rejection of independent claim 1. Accordingly, the Examiner's rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is traversed and Applicants respectfully request that the rejection be reconsidered and withdrawn. Additionally,

dependent claim 6 is also not rendered obvious by this combination for at least the same reasons as independent claim 1 from which it depends and further in view of its own features. Accordingly, the Examiner's rejection of claim 6 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is likewise traversed and Applicants respectfully request that the rejection be reconsidered and withdrawn.

The Examiner has objected to each of claims 2, 3 and 5 as being dependent upon rejected claim 1. As set forth above, Applicants have traversed the rejection of claim 1. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the objection to claims 2, 3 and 5 be reconsidered and withdrawn.

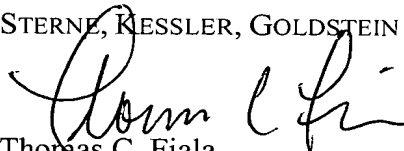
Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicants believe that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment and Reply is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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